

WE CLAIM:

1. A method of generating statistic information for performance management reporting, the method comprising steps of:
 - a. selecting a statistic semantic mapping for a performance report statistic based on a performance report statistic identifier from a body of statistic semantic mapping metadata, the statistic semantic mapping having a greatest semantic mapping priority associated therewith;
 - b. extracting a statistic value from a body of common format statistics as specified in the statistic semantic mapping selected;
 - c. selecting another statistic semantic mapping based on the same performance report statistic identifier having next greatest semantic mapping priority should the extraction of the statistic value from the body of common format statistics fail for the currently selected statistic semantic mapping; and
 - d. generating the performance report statisticwhereby the use of semantic mapping priorities drives performance management reporting.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein extracting the statistic value from the body of common format statistics, the method further comprises a step of extracting a common format statistic identifier specified in the selected statistic semantic mapping.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein extracting the statistic value from the body of common format

statistics, the method further comprises a step of querying the body of common format statistics based on the common format statistic identifier extracted.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the statistic semantic mapping specifies a combination of a plurality of statistic values to generate the performance report statistic, the method further comprising a step of performing operations on the plurality of statistic values.
5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein subsequent to the step of selecting the statistic semantic mapping, the method further comprises a step of extracting from the selected statistic semantic mapping at least one operand and a plurality of common format statistic identifiers.
6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein subsequent to extracting the statistic value from the body of common format statistics, the method further comprises a step of performing a unit conversion on the extracted statistic value.
7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein subsequent to generating the performance report statistic, the method further comprises a step of performing a unit conversion on the generated performance report statistic.
8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method includes a prior step of selecting the performance report statistic to be generated, the selection of the performance report statistic is made from a body of performance reporting metadata.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein selecting the performance report statistic to be generated, the method further comprises a step of extracting the performance report statistic identifier used in the selection of statistic semantic mapping for the generation of the performance report statistic.

10. A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein prior to the selection of performance report statistics to be generated, the method further comprises a step of generating the body of common format statistics from raw statistic information received from at least one managed network element.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein generating the body of common format statistics, the method further comprises steps of:

- a. extracting a vendor statistic identifier for each raw statistic provided;
- b. selecting a specification for the generation of the corresponding common format statistic from a body of vendor statistics metadata based on the vendor statistic identifier; and
- c. generating the corresponding common format statistic according to the specification

whereby the use of the body of vendor statistics metadata reduces the need for re-coding parsing software in processing raw statistic information.

12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein generating the common format statistic, the method further includes a

step of normalizing the associated statistical value of the raw statistic with respect to units of measurement.

13. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein generating the common format statistic, the method further includes a step of ascribing an associated common format identifier to the common format statistic.
14. A performance management reporting processor implementing the method claimed in claim 1.
15. A performance management reporting workstation implementing the method claimed in claim 1.
16. A software application implementing the method claimed in claim 1.
17. A firmware application implementing the method claimed in claim 1.